

# Utah Wildlife Board Meeting

## Utah Wildlife Board Work Session

June 25, 2020, DNR Auditorium  
1594 West North Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah  
Meeting can be viewed at <https://youtu.be/cD1KPcVkebA>

### AGENDA

Revised June 19, 2020

Thursday, June 25, 2020, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

1. Approval of Agenda **ACTION**  
– Byron Bateman, Chairman

2. Division Update  
– Mike Fowlks, Director

**Items of Discussion – NOTE: The Wildlife Board will not be taking action on any of the following informational items. This meeting is discussion only. Public comment will not be accepted, however the public may view the meeting live at:**<https://youtu.be/cD1KPcVkebA>.

3. Mule Deer  
State of mule deer and what comes next (Hirst)  
Population objectives and current populations (Bateman)  
Buck:doe ratios, a statewide perspective on general season units

4. Predator Management  
Predator Control Presentation  
Predator and Predator Management Plans (Heaton)  
Cougar Harvest (Bateman)  
Harvest to date (Bateman)  
Coyote Bounty  
Wildlife Services removal efforts (Bateman)

5. Wildlife Board Process and Functionality (Hirst, Heaton)

6. Habitat Projects  
Projects approved and those awaiting funding that are critical to mule deer  
List of critical mule deer projects (Bateman)  
Presenter: Daniel Eddington - Remote

7. Conservation Permit Dollars  
Uncommitted dollars (Bateman)  
Presenter: Kenny Johnson - Remote

8. Expo Contract  
Presenter: Kenny Johnson - Remote

9. WMA Access Discussion (Heaton)

10. Other business

– Byron Bateman, Chairman

**Summer WAFWA – July 9 – 14, 2020**

List of Virtual Wildlife Board Attendees

**WORK SESSION PROTOCOL**

1. This work session will contain both in-person and electronic elements, but due to the on-going COVID-19 pandemic and the associated safety guidelines put in place by the CDC, the State of Utah, and local health departments, the number of in-person attendees will be minimized and include only those essential to addressing the work session agenda items.
2. In-person attendees will gather at an anchor location which will be established at the Department of Natural Resources complex in Salt Lake City. In-person attendees will include: Board members, DWR Director, DNR Executive Director, RAC/Board Coordinator, Wildlife Section Chief, Big Game Coordinator, Big Game Projects Coordinator, Mammals Coordinator, invited University researchers, and the DNR/DWR technical support staff needed to run the meeting. In person attendees will be held to less than 20 individuals.
3. All other DWR staff including Regional Supervisors, Wildlife Managers, District Biologists, and Wildlife Program Coordinators will participate in the work session electronically via Google Meet to provide information and answer questions that the Board may have. RAC chairs will also be invited to participate via Google Meet.
4. Because this is a work session that contains no recommendations, motions or voting by the Board, there will be no public comment taken. The public can view the work session live via a Youtube link.

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Attendance

**Wildlife Board**

Byron Bateman – Chair	Randy Dearth	Donnie Hunter
Kevin Albrecht – Vice-Chair	Wade Heaton	Bret Selman
Mike Fowlks – Exec Secretary	Karl Hirst	

**In Person and Remote Division Personnel**

Robin Cahoon	Staci Coons	Teresa Griffin	Roger Kerstetter
Ashley Green	Greg Hansen	Dax Mangus	Wyatt Bubak
Mike Canning	Marty Bushman	Riley Peck	Chad Bettridge
Jason Vernon	Faith Jolley	Guy Wallace	Dave Beveridge
Miles Hanberg	Darren DeBloois	Jim Christensen	Matt Briggs
Chris Wood	Kim Hersey	Kent Hersey	Paul Washburn
Kevin Bunnell	Lindy Varney	Covy Jones	Bruce Johnson
Ben Nadolski	Justin Shannon	Austin Grimes	Rick Olson
J Shirley	Kenny Johnson	Torrey Christopherson	Phil Gray

**BYU Research Professors**

Dr. Randy Larsen  
Dr. Brock McMillan

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**00:00:01** Chairman Bateman called the meeting to order.

**00:00:27** **1) Approval of Agenda (Action)**

The following motion was made by Wade Heaton, seconded by Kevin Albrecht and passed unanimously.

**MOTION: I move that we approve the agenda as presented.**

**00:00:42** **2) Division Updates (Informational)**

Director Fowlks updated the Board on COVID-19 impacts within the Division, the outcome of the Executive Appropriation Committee's budget modifications, the July, 2020 virtual WAFWA conference and the 2022 WAFWA conference.

**00:05:36** **3) Mule Deer (Informational)**

DWR Big Game Coordinator Covy Jones, Big Game Projects Coordinator Kent Hersey and BYU research professors Dr. Randy Larsen and Dr. Brock McMillan gave a presentation on the DWR mule deer management plan.

**Board Questions & Discussion**

The Board asked questions about deer population objectives and carrying capacity, and suggested making hunting permit recommendations based on a targeted evaluation of mule deer herds on each hunting unit. The Board also discussed hunter satisfaction surveys and statewide buck-to-doe ratios.

**02:59:07** **Break for Lunch**

**03:37:00** **4) Predator Management (Informational)**

Game Mammals Coordinator Darren DeBloois and Wildlife Section Chief Justin Shannon gave a presentation on the DWR predator management plan.

**Board Questions & Discussion**

The Board asked questions about the complex relationship between deer and mountain lion populations, and discussed the overall mountain lion management plan.

**04:43:01** **5) Wildlife Board Process and Functionality (Discussion)**

Karl Hirst voiced concern about the Board having previously voted on a change to a recommendation without the public having had an opportunity to give input. The Board discussed if they should modify the process should the same set of circumstances arise in the future.

**04:58:00** **6) Habitat Projects (Informational)**

Habitat Conservation Coordinator Daniel Eddington gave a presentation about the

Watershed Restoration Initiative.

**Board Questions & Discussion**

There were no questions from the Board.

**05:19:02 7) Conservation Permit Dollars (Informational)**

Administrative Services Section Chief Kenny Johnson updated the Board on conservation funds performance.

**Board Questions & Discussion**

The Board asked about matching funds, if funds were being allocated for mule deer projects and if recent conservation partner auctions were successful given COVID-19 restrictions.

**05:26:28 8) Expo Contract (Informational)**

Administrative Services Section Chief Kenny Johnson updated the Board on the Expo Contract.

**Board Questions & Discussion**

The Board discussed the bighorn sheep tags specified in the Expo Contract.

**05:36:53 9) WMA Access Discussion (Discussion)**

The Board asked what Wildlife Management Area access is as it pertains to mountain lions and mountain lion hunting.

**05:50:26 10) Other Business**

The Board discussed the July 2020 WAFWA conference, the current 48-hour requirement to present a harvested mountain lion and shed antler hunting. Chairman Bateman thanked the Division of Wildlife Resources for the exceptional quality of presented data.

**06:14:37** Meeting adjourned.